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Message Text

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47
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /136 W
---------- 025408
R 101232 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2487
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1590

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINS PINT UG
SUBJECT: KIBEDI RETURNS BRIEFLY, SEES AMIN

1. ON MAY 10 SUDANESE AMBASSADOR, MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMMED ABDEL-GADIR, ADVISED AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY BBC CORRESPONDENT, CHARLES HARRISON, THAT FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WANUME KIBEDI HAD RETURNED TO KAMPALA ON MAY 4 FOR A PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AMIN. HARRISON CLAIMED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY SEEN KIBEDI AND CHATTED WITH HIM BRIEFLY. KIBEDI SAID HE PLANNED TO REMAIN IN KAMPALA FOR ONLY 24 HOURS AND THEN RETURN TO NAIROBI, WHERE HIS WIFE WAS WAITING FOR HIM. HARRISON DID NOT KNOW IF OR WHEN KIBEDI DEPARTED KAMPALA.

2. ACCORDING TO HARRISON, KIBEDI RETURNED TO UGANDA TO ASSURE AMIN OF HIS CONTINUED LOYALITY BUT THAT HE WAS REALLY ILL AND COULD NOT CONTINUE IN HIS POSITION AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. KIBEDI REPORTEDLY WANTED SOME ASSURANCE FROM AMIN THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD NOT BE HARMED AS A RESULT OF HIS DECISION NOT TO RETURN PERMANENTLY TO UGANDA. KIBEDI TOLD AMIN THAT HE HAD TAKEN NO ACTION AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT AND HAD REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A CONDEMNATION OF HIS POLICIES. APPARENTLY KIBEDI BELIEVED THAT IF HE CAME TO KAMPALA AND SPOKE DIRECTLY TO
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AMIN, HE WOULD PUT AMIN IN A POSITION IN WHICH HE COULD NOT JUSTIFY TAKING RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST HIS FAMILY.

3. AMBASSADOR ABDEL- GADIR WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY AMIN DID NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT KIBEDI' S RETURN IN THE PRESS AT A TIME WHEN OTHER KEY UGANDAN OFFICIALS AND PERSONALITIES WERE CONDEMNING HIS REGIME FROM ABROAD.

4. ABDEL- GADIR SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ALL TEN MINISTERS WHO HAD BEEN PLACED ON LEAVE TWO MONTHS EARLIER MADE THEIR APPEARANCE AT GENERAL AMIN' S MAY 7 BREAKFAST AS ORDERED. (THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ANOTHER SOURCE.) OF 17 MINISTERS IN ORIGINAL CABINET, FIVE WERE FIRED BY AMIN (BANAGE, ENGUR, MAYANJA, KIRONDE AND ZIKUSOKA) WHILE TWO RESIGNED FROM ABROAD (RUGUMAYO AND KIBEDI). TEN WHO SHOWED WERE THUS OBOTH- OFUMBI, OBITRE- GAMA, MUGERWA, GESA, WAKHWEYA, OKWAARE, ORYEMA, BYAGAGAIRE, LUTARA AND NABURRI.

5. SOURCES OF ABOVE REPORTS SHOULD BE PROTECTED.
KEELEY

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